



Chambers of
PAUL L. BEEMAN, Presiding Judge
Department One

Superior Court of California County of Solano

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October 15, 2012

TO: Solano County Newspapers
Legal Newspapers

RE: Letter to the Editor

The Solano Superior Court is one of 58 trial courts in the California Judicial Branch. Like all trial courts, the Solano Court receives almost all of its funding from the State. Since 2007, the Judicial Branch has seen over one billion in funding reductions pursuant to the budget crisis. Statewide, these reductions have resulted in the closing of courtrooms, layoffs of staff, furlough days, elimination of court reporters for numerous case types and overall reductions in services and backlogs of cases.

Since 2007, the Solano Court has seen a reduction of six million dollars to its annual budget and a reduction in staff from 264 to 205 for twenty-four judicial officers. This year, the Court had to implement twelve furlough days and anticipates twelve furlough days for next year. The Court had to eliminate court reporters for all misdemeanor matters.

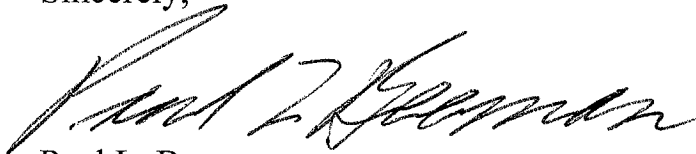
We have already been informed that if the Governor's tax initiative, Proposition 30, is not adopted by the voters, the Judicial Branch should expect additional funding reductions. We are very concerned about the impact of additional reductions to the judicial branch and believe that all individuals should be concerned with the reduction and elimination of judicial services.

The United States Constitution guarantees access to the court system. A functioning democracy requires that all individuals have the ability to petition the court to redress grievances and resolve disputes. Additional budget reductions will simply result in further layoffs, reduced services,

significantly longer waiting times to process cases and an overall limitation for individuals to access the court system.

As stated by British Prime Minister William Gladstone, "justice delayed, is justice denied." Under the federal and state constitutions, Californians have a right to access the court system. The adequate funding of the judicial branch should be a priority for all Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Beeman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "B".

Paul L. Beeman
Presiding Judge